

Action Item

*Governmental Relations Committee*

Approval of the Minutes of the April 9, 2002 Meeting

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# MINUTES

## *Governmental Relations Committee*

Meeting of April 9, 2002

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**Committee members present** Howard Welinsky, *Chair*  
Robert L. Moore, *Vice Chair*  
Lance Izumi  
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.  
Evonne Seron Schulze  
Rachel E. Shetka  
Olivia K. Singh  
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*

**Other Commissioners present**  
Odessa P. Johnson  
Ralph Pesqueira

**Committee member absent** Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

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**Call to order** Committee Chair Welinsky called the April 9, 2002 meeting of the Governmental Relations Committee to order at 8:45 a.m. He announced that minutes for both the February 5 and March 8 committee meetings had been approved as a Commission Consent item the previous day.

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**Legislative update, April 2002** Commissioner Welinsky reported that the committee had met on March 8, 2002 in Sacramento to review and adopt a bill matrix including newly introduced bills. He called upon Commission Staff Legislative Coordinator Marge Chisholm to discuss the outcome of that meeting.

Ms. Chisholm reviewed the layout of the Commission's Legislative Matrix which, when adopted, shows those bills staff is following and for which there is an official Commission position. She gave an overview of the changes since the committee's last meeting along with the rationale for the recommended positions on the bills newly added to the matrix.

Ms. Chisholm also discussed with the committee four new bills that had not been on the matrix adopted previously by the committee. After extensive discussion, the Committee agreed to add four new bills to the Commission Legislative Matrix with the following positions:

1. Assembly Bill 1747 (Briggs) - Support.
2. Assembly Bill 2115 (Goldberg) - Oppose unless amended.
3. Assembly Bill 2295 (Oropeza) - Support if amended.

4. Senate Bill 1731 (Alarcon) - Support in concept.

It was moved, seconded, and approved without dissent to adopt the matrix as amended.

Discussion ensued as to ways in which staff could provide additional background information for commissioners on bills of interest to the Commission. Staff suggested that each representatives from all systems of higher education would be asked to convey their respective system's official positions on all bills on the Commission's matrix at the regularly scheduled Statutory Advisory Committee meetings that proceed each regular meeting of the Commission. Commissioners supported such an approach.

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**Review of the  
Legislative  
Analyst's  
recommendations  
on the Governor's  
2002-03 Budget**

Chair Welinsky called on Commission staff member Kevin Woolfork to report on the Legislative Analyst's Recommendations on the proposed Governor's Budget for 2002-03.

Mr. Woolfork presented a number of key recommendations and summarized the major issues surrounding the recommendations. With regard to the Commission's proposed budget cuts, the committee discussed the Legislative Analyst's recommendation that the Commission be relieved of the obligation of making payments for Terradata services to the Teale Data Center and that the savings should revert to the General Fund.

Mr. Woolfork provided background on this issue, noting that Commission staff has been rigorous in its opposition to this recommendation, instead suggesting that the funding that was used for payments to the Teale Data Center should be retained in the Commission's operating budget. Commissioners voiced their hope that the Legislature will seriously consider this recommendation since the Commission has not used the Terradata services since 2000-01.

The Commission also discussed the Legislative Analyst's recommendation that State funds allocated to the University of California and the State University for financial aid be re-directed to expand the competitive Cal Grant Program. Mr. Woolfork stated that Executive Director Fox had sent a letter opposing this recommendation to the appropriate legislative budget subcommittees. The commissioners voiced their opposition to the Legislative Analyst's recommendation.

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**Adjournment**

Having no further business before the Committee, Chair Welinsky adjourned the Governmental Relations Committee meeting at 10:23 a.m.

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